

Arizona State Mine Inspector



JOE HART

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rumrill;

Please accept this letter of support regarding the proposed issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc.

The UIC permit will authorize Florence Copper, Inc. to construct and operate an in-situ copper recovery Production Test Facility (PTF) on 2 acres of land for a period of up to 2 years, followed by post-closure monitoring of up to 5 years.

Florence Copper will use modern in-situ recovery practices and technologies that have been proven to fully protect the integrity and quality of groundwater resources when properly executed.

Following a successful pilot project, Florence Copper's implementation of a full-scale operation will result in total mineral production of 797 tons. The economic benefit is estimated to be \$3.4 billion in economic activity for the State of Arizona and 800 jobs. These mining industry employment opportunities will provide head-of-household wage jobs. The projected fiscal impact to the town of Florence is \$68.4 million and \$2.1 billion in economic activity for Pinal County..

Thank you for your consideration in the issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in Safety and Health,

Joe Hart
Arizona State Mine Inspector